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Reports from Santiago, Manzanillo, Guantanamo, and Daiquiri.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, November 8, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the sanitary condition of the fourth district of the island of Cuba for the week ended November 4, 1899:

Santiago.—There was a total of 17 deaths among the civil population of this city, an increase of 2 over the preceding period. The principal causes of death were as follows: Tuberculosis, 2; malarial fevers, 2; intestinal diseases, 5; tetanus, 1; pneumonia, 2; other causes, 5; total, 17. Population, 34,000; mortality, 26.

The weather still continues rainy, but does not make any marked impression on the health of the individuals; it does produce a great depression of the sensual perception of all classes, especially new arrivals.

The building in which this office is located, though 170 years old, has not been able to withstand the rains, the front walls becoming undermined and are in danger of falling. It is possible that a new office will have to be secured.

There was one case of yellow fever reported in the town during this time, and one case that was taken from the U. S. A. transport *Wright*. The *Wright* was disinfected and detained in quarantine the required period.

Manzanillo.—During the week there were 6 deaths, the principal causes being tuberculosis, 2; tetanus, 1; nephritis, 1; other causes, 2.

There was no yellow fever or smallpox reported during the week, and the health of city and vicinity is good.

Guantanamo.—A total of 6 deaths was reported for the week from the following causes: Malarial fevers, 3; intestinal disease, 1; other causes, 2. No contagious or infectious diseases reported.

Daiquiri.—No report.

Respectfully,

HERMAN B. PARKER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

FRANCE.

Further concerning yellow fever on the steamship Navarre, at St. Nazaire.

NANTES, FRANCE, November 2, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to confirm my cablegram of October 30, concerning the existence of yellow fever at the port of St. Nazaire, 30 miles west of Nantes.

Sunday morning, October 29, the steamship *Navarre*, coming from Vera Cruz, Mexico, arrived in the port of St. Nazaire, reporting 2 deaths from yellow fever during the voyage. There were 2 cases of fever on board when the ship reached the outer harbor, where it was placed in quarantine. The cases were removed to the lazaretto, which is located on a point of land across the river Loire from the city. The passengers were also removed to the lazaretto, nothing but the mails having been landed in the city. Every effort will be made to prevent the spread of the disease. I regarded it necessary to report the matter by cable, from the fact that a large part of the shipment of goods from this district to the United States is made from the port of St. Nazaire. The

cases of fever did not develop until the ship passed the coast of Spain. The sickness has all been among the crew.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH I. BRITTAIN,

United States Consul at Nantes, France.

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Work at the Pasteur Institute on the theory that toxins of one organism may protect against other germs belonging to the same group.

PARIS, FRANCE, November 2, 1899.

SIR: For your information I have the honor to state that I am now comparing, together with M. Letarge, the results of experiments with his "serum anti-coli," against the bacillus icteroides in animals, and will soon be able to determine, I hope, its possible value.

The similarity of b. icteroides in many cultural characteristics to certain varieties of b. coli communis b. typhi, and b. cholerae suis, et b. peripleuro-pneumoniae, rather indicates, as shown in the report of the Havana Commission, a great similarity of their toxins, since animals succumb to these toxins in a very similar manner. Should this prove true it rather easily follows that any substance introduced into the economy capable of reinforcing the protective powers of the body, mainly of the blood serum, against any one of this so closely allied group of organisms, will also be found useful against the other members of the group. This has been found true, to a certain extent, of the "serum anti-coli" (Letarge) against b. peri-pleuro-pneumoniae, and b. cholerae suis (Hungary). Not so much against b. typhi.

This group of toxins is so variable that thus far no standard has been attained, the virulence of the culture not being a sure criterion of its toxic power at all times. I am convinced that much of this is due to individual resistance of the animal inoculated.

The most protective serum, then, against yellow fever may be derived from some other member of the allied group. This may be seen in the experiments of Reed and Carroll of attaining immunity in animals against b. icteroides by the use of sterile cultures of b. cholerae suis, and *vice versa*; yet this result does not prove *identity* of these organisms, only that the resistance of the animal has been increased, in either case, by the use of an appropriate means. The same result may possibly be attained with nearly allied colon organisms. In this laboratory it has been attained in the case of Hungarian hog cholera and an allied colon organism (Letarge).

Acute infectious diseases are characterized by certain symptoms and anatomic changes which indicate the mode of reaction of the animal (man) to the specific poison, and since these reactions are of such invariable character as to specify the disease, it seems reasonable that the toxins giving rise to them must also be invariable. Therefore, despite the fact of the immunity gained from the use of the one organism against the other of this group, we must conclude that these accessory facts of similarity in culture and in the toxins does not diminish or extinguish the important characteristic of specificity. * * *

Respectfully,

EUGENE WADDIN,

Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.